

## PAT SULLIVAN

## And the rat roams on: Sullivan still a gym fixture

By David Monroe  
Staff Writer

They play and hang out in gyms every free moment they have. They can be found shooting jumpers when the gym opens and playing in a pickup game when it closes. They are always the first to arrive and the last to leave.

Sometimes, they even hide in the gym so they can shoot by themselves after everyone has left and the lights have been turned out.

They can always be found at the gym. That's why they're known as gym rats.

North Carolina's Pat Sullivan is the king of gym rats.

"All of my teammates will tell you I am (at the Smith Center) a lot," Sullivan said. "I just love this place. I love to come down and shoot any time of the day or night. My roommate (Chuck Lisenbee) is the manager. A lot of times we will be home at 10 o'clock at night, and I'll just say, 'Chuck, come on, I feel like shooting.'

"We'll just come down here, turn on the lights and work out."

Said teammate Eric Montross: "He is in here all the time, coming out late at night and shooting. It doesn't matter, he is here. He just doesn't stop playing. Some people need breaks, and he is not one of those people."

The junior from Bogota, N.J., who averaged five points and three rebounds a game last season, said he never gets tired of playing basketball.

"It is just so much fun for me now," Sullivan said. "It is not even work. I don't even consider it working on my game. I just feel that it is fun to do."

"Obviously I know it's helping me become a better player, but it is something I love to do. Some people like to hang out. Some people like to swim or whatever in their free time. I like to do this in my free time."

Sullivan's love for the game is year-round. Last season, the 6-foot-8 small forward shot a disappointing 47.4 percent from the field. Along with the low percentage came a loss of confidence. Instead of getting down on himself, Sullivan took it upon himself to work on his shooting. This summer, he took hundreds of thousands of shots.

"Over the summer, when you see success, when you see your shots starting to fall, it just builds your confidence up right there," he said. "So I just have to continue that."

Sullivan said some of last season's shooting woes had been mental.

"Even last summer before my sophomore year, I worked very hard on my game, and this summer, also, I did the same thing. I lost a little bit of confidence at the end of the year, but I think

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"He needs to lose weight and gain some speed and stamina," Jacobs said, "and I think probably those two are inextricably intertwined — as he becomes lighter, he'll move better, and he'll have better stamina."

Last year, Geth averaged 17 ppg and 18 rpg for Norfolk (Va.) High School.

"(Smith) sees within him the outlines of a good player, but my sense is that it's going to take work to get him into the shape he would need to be, and also to polish the features that he doesn't have yet," Jacobs said.

Luckily, Geth and the others are freshmen. They still have four years in Chapel Hill to polish their games and their lives.



Pat Sullivan

I got it back through the hard work in the summer. I've been shooting well ever since."

Point guard Derrick Phelps said that while Sullivan definitely can shoot the ball, he must be more confident and not hesitate to take a shot.

"In high school, he was a scorer," Phelps said. "I feel that coming out here, he's got to get more comfortable in the system and become that scorer he used to be."

Added Tar Heel Brian Reese: "He won't take crazy shots. He will hit a lot

of shots. He is a good 3-point shooter. A lot of people really don't see it because it is all about having confidence and being ready."

With the graduation of shooting sensation Hubert Davis, someone has to step up and hit the outside shot for the Tar Heels. Sullivan said he is ready to accept that challenge.

"Right now, I am real confident in my shot," Sullivan said. "I think shooting is definitely a strong point in my game. If I'm open, I think I can make a lot of the shots that I am going to take."

Besides the amount of shooting Sullivan did over the summer to improve his game, another thing that will make him a better player is the addition of four freshmen: Dante Calabria, Larry Davis, Ed Geth and Serge Zwicker.

"Being freshmen, I think they are going to come in and work extra hard, and that is just going to push me," Sullivan said. "I am a junior, and I am also going to work very hard to set the example that this is how you have to work in this system. Hopefully, they can help me, and I am definitely going to try and help them, too."

In his first two years with the Tar Heels, Sullivan has been known best for his heady defense, good passing and overall smart play.

"He always has a positive attitude," said senior forward George Lynch. "He works hard every day in practice, so I think he makes the team improve as far as guys not giving up in practice, always

having their heads up. You can't ask for any more from a player."

Despite his commitment to shooting more this season, Sullivan said he would always rather make a pass to set up a basket than make a shot himself.

"I always love to make an assist before making a shot," he said. "To me, that's the best (feeling) playing basketball—to make an assist, and that's what I love to do."

His teammates have to stay alert when Sullivan is on the court. "Pat is a heads-up player," Lynch said. "If you are on the floor for one minute with Pat, and you are not expecting a pass, the ball may hit you in the face."

However, Sullivan's biggest asset is his defense. He can always be found on the floor scrapping for a loose ball or drawing a charge.

"He is always around at the right time with the ball," Reese said. "We do a lot

of help defense, and you'll never find Pat out of place."

Playing strong defense is something that Sullivan takes tremendous pride in because in the UNC system, if you don't play defense, you don't play.

"That is something that is stressed here," Sullivan said. "Defense wins the games. If your shots aren't falling, defense is always the constant. You can always control your defense, but you can't control if the ball rolls around the basket and falls out. You can always play hard on defense."

Sullivan said Smith wants him to put a lot of pressure on his man and try to force turnovers.

"A lot of times, you've got to use your smarts and your basketball savvy to be in the right position at the right time," Sullivan said. "Sometimes I'll take a charge and other times I'll be in the passing lane and make a steal."

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